

Interpretive Programs...

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Witch Hazel



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Katy Kindig

October Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Friday October 2

Indiana Audubon Society Fall Festival

For more info visit www.indianaaudubon.org

7:00pm Birding the Big Year. Join us for an encore presentation by John Kendall, local birder from Valparaiso. Kendall spent 2008 scouring the state in search of more birds in one year than any other birder before him. Explore his bird sightings and yearlong experiences in this hour program at the Nature Center.

Saturday October 3

9:30am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Afterwards, get a chance to build your own recycled bird feeder to take home. Great fun for the kids. KK

10am Way Down Yonder in the Paw Paw Patch. Meet the Naturalist at the Wilson Shelter for a trek along Trail 2, in search of the "Indiana banana," aka the paw paw! We'll be out for about an hour. DG

Saturday October 3 (Cont'd)

1pm Today's Youth and Birding. A special IAS Fall Festival presentation.... Join 16-year-old birding phenom Alison Vilag for a look at what inspires kids to take up birdwatching. We'll also explore ways to engage our next generations. Program meets in the Nature Center Auditorium.

2pm Fall Color Stroll. Come enjoy the early fall colors with us this afternoon. Meet outside the Nature Center for a refreshing woodland hike exploring the colors of fall and why they appear. Strap on your hiking boots and join us for this 45-minute stroll. KK

8pm Owl Banding in the Dunes. As part of the special IAS Fall Festival, state expert owl bander Ross Brittain will discuss the new Dunes project to band the smallest of native owls, the Northern Saw-whet Owl. After a short presentation, we'll head to the banding nets for a chance to glimpse these amazing birds up close. Program meets at the Nature Center.

Sunday October 4

7am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Grab some coffee and join us early as we showcase some of the migrating birds through the dunes. With the use of special nets and cages we'll have birds up close for folks to see. Meet at the Nature Center through 9am. BB

10am An Autumn Dam Hike! Fall is a great time to visit the Dune swamps... no mosquitoes! Tag along with the naturalist as we explore the Dune wetlands and take a glimpse at the beaver's lodge. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour stroll. DG

11:30am BIGBY Birding. The Big Green Big Year (BIGBY) concept was originally developed to encourage birders to reduce their carbon footprint as they pursue their hobby. Learn about this new technique of birding at the Nature Center Auditorium.

2pm Tree ID Spree. With fall leaf collections going on now, explore the dune forests as we point out the different trees and the colors they are now producing. Meet at the Nature Center. KK

Saturday October 10

Kid's Fall Funfest Weekend!

For more info www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

10:30am-3pm NWI Storytelling Festival.

Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions will go on throughout the day, as well as special storytelling at the Wilson Shelter until 1pm. Check the schedule at the Nature Center for specific session themes.

12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest! Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter while exploring the fun of the fall season. This year's theme is old-fashioned fun and games of the pioneers! Stop by the Friends of Indiana booth for a \$1.00 passport that will enter you into the drawings for fun prizes after all the stamps are collected. Some activities include apple bobbing, cornhole, sack races, hayrides, and more!

2pm Professor Oops! and his "Genius Lessons" Spend an hour with Professor Oops, Educator-humorist and stand up "foolosopher." Professor Oops is a gentle jester, and an explorer who communicates important ideas about ecology, psychology, art, creativity and science with wit and whimsy. This special Funfest activity takes place at the Wilson Shelter.

5:30pm and 7pm Ghost Stories! Bring a blanket and a friend to hold on to as we welcome back the NWI Storytellers for two special story sessions at the Wilson Shelter. The first session is for younger children and their parents, while the second session is for older children and adults. These stories are sure to spook and chill you! Apple cider courtesy the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Pick a session and follow the special luminaries to the shelter.



Sunday October 11

10:30am-3pm NWI Storytelling Festival.

Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions will go on throughout the day, as well as special storytelling at the Wilson Shelter until 1pm. Check the schedule at the Nature Center for specific session themes.

12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest! Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter while exploring the fun of the fall season. This year's theme is old-fashioned fun and games of the pioneers! Stop by the Friends of Indiana booth for a \$1.00 passport that will enter you into the drawings for fun prizes after all the stamps are collected.

2pm Professor Oops! and his "Genius Lessons" Spend an hour with Professor Oops, Educator-humorist and stand up "foolosopher." Professor Oops is a gentle jester, and an explorer who communicates important ideas about ecology, psychology, art, creativity and science with wit and whimsy. This special Funfest activity takes place at the Wilson Shelter.

3pm Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest! Sign up at the Funfest Passport booth on Sunday for our annual contest. Limited to the first 30, and open for kids under 17 years old. This special Funfest activity takes place at the Wilson Shelter.

Tuesday October 13

7pm Owl Banding in the Dunes. Join us at the Nature Center for a look at our special saw-whet owl banding project. If conditions are right, we'll have up close views of this amazing owl. Bundle up and join us! BB

Saturday October 17

State Park Geocachers Campout

Visit www.geocaching.com for more info.

10am Techno-savenger Hunt! Explore the game of geocaching as we use GPS units to find hidden treasures in the woods. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute discovery. Prizes for the kids! KK

2pm Mapping the Dunes through Time. Explore the dunes through the ages with the use of modern technology. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a peak at how the old photos and maps have captured the changing dunes. Join us! BB

7pm Owl Banding in the Dunes. See Tuesday, October 13 for details. BB



Sunday October 18

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. KK

2pm Sassafras Saunter. Explore the peaking fall color this afternoon! Meet at the Nature Center for an easy, 45-minute stroll through the sassafras woodlands as we explore the whys and hows of fall color. Join us! KK

Friday October 23

7pm Owl Banding in the Dunes. See Tuesday, October 13 for details. BB

Saturday October 24

10am Fall Reptiles. Explore what our resident turtles and snakes are up to as they prepare for the long winter ahead. Slither into the Nature Center for this 45-minute program! Great program for the kids! DG

2pm A Fall Color Slide Show. Bring your digital camera and pictures of the Dunes to the Nature Center. From here, we'll upload your favorite shots for a unique slideshow highlighting autumn in the dunes. DG

Sunday October 25

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

11am Indiana State Parks: Treasures in Your Own Backyard! Join us in the Nature Center Auditorium for a special look at this new 100th Anniversary documentary on the Indiana State Parks, as we gear up for 2016! This one hour PBS production is great for the history buffs. Join us!

2pm A Witch Hazel Walk. Meet at the Nature Center for a 45-minute stroll in search of the last woodland flower of the year... the witch hazel. We'll also explore the other sights and sounds of fall. Come on out! BB

Tuesday October 27

7pm Owl Banding in the Dunes. Join us at the Nature Center for a look at our special saw-whet owl banding project. If conditions are right, we'll have up close views of this amazing owl. Bundle up and join us! BB

Saturday October 31

"Howl"oween in the Dunes!



10am Winged Creatures of the Night! Swoop into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the owls of the Indiana Dunes! We'll explore their special adaptations that allow them to survive in a world of darkness. Kick off your "Howl"oween weekend with us this morning! BB

2pm Creepy Campground Crafts. Join the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for some spooky craft fun. It's a make-it-take-it program to help you add some decoration to your campsite. Bring the kids! KK

4pm-7pm Campsite Decorating Contest!

Vote for your favorite campsite today! All campers receive a voting ballot at check-in, and extras are available at the Nature Center and Campground Gate. Great prizes available! Winners announced after 8pm.

4pm-5:30pm Trick or Treating! Our annual tradition takes place this afternoon! Bring your ghouls and goblins for some trick-or-treating fun in the campgrounds. Please expect limited vehicle traffic in the campgrounds during this time.

6pm Spooky Night Hikes! Registration is limited for two special "Howl"oween night hikes. Sign up begins Saturday morning for each of these hikes: "Journey to the Pet Cemetery" and "Things that Go Bump in the Night." Sign up at the Nature Center and join us! DG, KK

7pm Owls Up Close! Join us at the Nature Center for a look at our special saw-whet owl banding project. If conditions are right, we'll have up close views of this amazing owl. Bundle up and join us! BB

Sunday November 1

10am Spooky Feed The Birds Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Bat Chat! Bats bring fear to many people. Come explore the mystery that surrounds these amazing winged mammals. We'll look at the different kinds of bats at the Dunes, as well as a few of the myths that most people know. BB

